I CLAIM:

1. A stowable vehicle seat assembly for use in a vehicle cabin having a cabin floor, said seat assembly comprising:

   a) a seat cushion member having one or more downwardly extending front legs, and one or more downwardly extending rear legs;

   b) a mounting means positioned on said front legs and on said rear legs for releasable engagement with said cabin floor; and

   c) a control rod system pivotably interconnected between said seat cushion member and said cabin floor, said control rod system being adapted to enable selective pivoting of said seat cushion member between:

      i) a deployed design configuration whereat said mounting means is in engagement with said cabin floor as aforesaid, and whereat said seat cushion member has a substantially horizontal orientation; and

      ii) a raised stowed configuration located substantially rearwardly of said deployed design configuration, and whereat said mounting means is released from said engagement with said cabin floor, with said seat cushion member having a substantially vertical orientation.

2. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

a) in said deployed design configuration, said seat cushion member is in substantially spaced relation with a rear wall of said vehicle cabin; and

b) in said raised stowed configuration, said seat cushion member is in substantially adjacent parallel relation with said rear wall.

3. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 2, further comprising a backrest member pivotally mounted on said seat cushion member for pivotal folding of said backrest member relative to said seat cushion member, and wherein:

a) in said deployed design configuration, said backrest member also has a substantially vertical orientation and is in substantially spaced relation from said rear wall; and

b) in said raised stowed configuration, said backrest member has said substantially vertical orientation and is substantially interposed between said seat cushion member and said rear wall.

4. A vehicle seat assembly according to claim 3, wherein said backrest member is selectively forwardly foldable over the seat cushion member from said deployed design configuration

towards a fold-flat configuration intermediate of said deployed design configuration and said raised stowed configuration, with said backrest member having said substantially horizontal orientation and being in substantially parallel juxtaposed relation with said seat cushion member in said fold-flat configuration.

5.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 4, wherein said mounting means comprises leg locking means for selectively releasing said mounting means from said engagement with said cabin floor when said backrest member is in said fold-flat configuration.

6.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 5, further comprising backrest locking means for locking said backrest member in said substantially parallel juxtaposed relation with said seat cushion member when said mounting means is released from said engagement with said cabin floor as aforesaid.

7.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 6, further comprising seat biasing means for biasing said seat cushion member towards said raised stowed configuration.

8.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 7, wherein said control rod system comprises a forward control

rod and a rearward control rod, with said forward control rod and said rearward control rod each being pivotably interconnected between said cabin floor and said seat cushion member, such that said forward control rod, said rearward control rod, said cabin floor and said seat cushion member together define a notional quadrilateral having four pivotal corners.

9. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 8, wherein said mounting means comprises one or more releasable front locking hooks pivotably mounted one each on each of said front legs, and one or more releasable rear locking hooks pivotably mounted one each on each of said rear legs, such that, when said backrest member is in said fold-flat configuration, said front locking hooks and said rear locking hooks are pivotable between:

a) a closed configuration whereat each of said front locking hooks and said rear locking hooks is adapted for secure releasable engagement with a respective striker pin defined within said cabin floor; and

b) an open configuration whereat each of said front locking hooks and said rear locking hooks is adapted to release said respective striker pin.

10. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 9, wherein said mounting means further comprises a hook link

member operatively interconnected between said front locking hooks and said rear locking hooks to cause positive pivoting of said front locking hooks in unison with said rear locking hooks during pivoting between said closed configuration and said open configuration as aforesaid.

11. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 10, wherein said front locking hooks and said rear locking hooks are biased towards said closed configuration.

12. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 11, wherein said mounting means further comprises a manually grippable handle means rotatably mounted on said seat cushion member and operatively connected to said front locking hooks, for selectively pivoting said front locking hooks together with said rear locking hooks from said closed configuration towards said open configuration as aforesaid.

13. A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 12, wherein said leg locking means comprises a backrest link member pivotally connected to said backrest member, and a hook pawl member pivotally connected to said backrest link member, with said backrest link member and said hook pawl member together being adapted for positive pivoting in unison with said backrest member between:

a)   said deployed design configuration, whereat said hook
      pawl member engages one of said rear locking hooks in
      obstructed relation so as to prevent pivoting of said
      one of said rear locking hooks from said closed
      configuration towards said open configuration; and

b)   said fold-flat configuration, whereat said hook pawl
      member is removed from said engagement with said one
      of said rear locking hooks, in unobstructed relation,
      so as to enable pivoting of said one of said rear
      locking hooks from said closed configuration towards
      said open configuration as aforesaid.

14.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 13,
      wherein said backrest locking means comprises a backrest
      cam member pivotally connected substantially adjacent to
      one of said rear legs, and a backrest cam biasing means for
      pivotally urging said backrest cam member from:

a)   a striker pin engaging position, whereat said backrest
      cam member engages said respective striker pin and
      said mounting means engages said cabin floor as
      aforesaid, with said striker pin engaging position of
      said backrest cam member being adapted to enable
      selective pivoting of said backrest member between
      said deployed design configuration and said fold-flat
      configuration as aforesaid; towards

b)   a backrest engaging position, whereat said mounting means is released from said engagement with said cabin floor as aforesaid, and whereat said backrest cam member is removed from said engagement with said respective striker pin into operative obstructing engagement with said hook pawl member, so as to lock said backrest member in said substantially parallel juxtaposed relation with said seat cushion member as aforesaid.

15.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 14, wherein said seat biasing means comprises a torsion rod pivotably interconnected between said cabin floor and said control rod system.

16.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 14, wherein said torsion rod is pivotably interconnected between said cabin floor and said rearward control rod.

17.   A stowable vehicle seat assembly according to claim 16, further comprising a stowed latching means for releasably securing said vehicle seat assembly in said raised stowed configuration.